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## Pentagon warns of disruptions as Army, Marines both lack confirmed leaders for first time

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin warned that troop readiness and retention is at risk as the Army's chief stepped down Friday, leaving the military's two ground combat forces without Senate-confirmed leaders for the first time in history.

Speaking during a ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Austin said the Senate's failure to confirm the services' new leaders is disruptive to the force and could impact relationships with allies and partners around the globe. The confirmation of the next Army chief and Marine commandant are among more than 300 military nominations stalled by Alabama Sen. Tommy Tuberville, a Republican, over the Pentagon's policy to pay for travel when a service member has to go out of state to get an abortion or other reproductive care.

Continued on Page 2



Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin speaks during a news conference at the Pentagon in Washington, July 18, 2023.  
(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta, File)

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## After 27 years, authorities identify woman whose remains were found along Gilgo Beach parkway

**By Jake Offenhartz,  
Jennifer Peltz and  
Bobby Caina Calvan  
Associated Press**

**HAUPPAUGE, N.Y. (AP) —** A woman whose remains were among discoveries that became known as the Gilgo Beach killings has been identified after 27 years, authorities said Friday, disclosing the latest in a series of recent revelations about the long-cold case.

Known until now to the public only as "Jane Doe No. 7," she was Karen Vergata, 34, Suffolk County District Attorney Ray Tierney told a news conference.

Her family last heard from her on Valentine's Day in 1996, when she called her father on his birthday, according to court papers he filed in 2015 seeking to have her declared presumptively dead.

The filing lays out years of relatives' and attorneys' efforts to find her and says Suffolk County police contacted the family as far back as 1997 about an unidentified woman's death.



**Suffolk County District Attorney Raymond Tierney, unseen, speaks at a news conference to announce the identity of a victim investigators had called the "Jane Doe No. 7," as Karen Vergata, pictured at left, Friday, Aug. 4, 2023, in Hauppauge, New York.**

(AP Photo/John Minchillo)

It was not immediately clear whether that woman was indeed Vergata, whose then-unidentified remains had been found the prior year.

Tierney credited a recent reinvestigation and new DNA sampling with finally establishing who she was. Yet much remains unclear about the investigative turns of a case that deviled detectives for over a decade and was beset

by clashes among law enforcement agencies and changes in their leadership. Friday's development was part of a reinvestigation that, last month, spurred the first arrest in connection with the long-unsolved string of killings of 10 people whose remains were found over a decade ago along a coastal parkway in Gilgo Beach on New York's Long Island.

But it is unclear whether

Vergata's death might ever be tied to the ongoing case against Rex Heermann, an architect who has been charged with three of the killings and named the prime suspect in a fourth.

Tierney declined to comment on "what, if any, suspects" were developed in Vergata's death.

Some of Vergata's remains were discovered in 1996 on Fire Island. More of her bones were found in 2011 near Gilgo Beach, more than 20 miles (32 kilometers) west of the original location.

A woman with a "troubled lifestyle," in the words of father Dominic Vergata, she was living in a rented room in Manhattan's then-gritty Hell's Kitchen neighborhood.

Child-welfare officials had taken her two sons from her, and they had been adopted by a foster mother. She had not seen the young boys since 1992, but she visited her father and brother frequently, her father said in sworn statements in the

court proceeding that sought to have her declared legally dead.

Karen Vergata had been arrested numerous times, according to documents in the court papers, which don't specify the charges or outcomes. Tierney said investigators believe she was working as an escort. Most of the other victims in the Gilgo Beach killings also were sex workers.

The family learned she had never tried to reclaim bail money she had posted for a friend before February 1996, a police officer who frequently saw her around her neighborhood had not caught sight of her since then, and she'd missed a March 1996 court date, the father's court filing said.

Tierney said Friday that no missing persons report was filed when Vergata disappeared. But her father had said he tried to file a missing persons report with the New York Police Department in 1996 but was told he could not. A message seeking comment was left with the NYPD. □

## Pentagon warns of disruptions as Army, Marines both lack confirmed leaders for first time

**Continued from Front**

"Today for the first time in the history of the Department of Defense, two of our services will be operating without Senate confirmed leadership," said Austin. "Great teams need great leaders, and that's central to maintaining the full might of the most lethal fighting force on earth."

Army Gen. James McConville is retiring and Gen. Randy George, the current vice chief has been nominated to become the next chief of the service. On Friday, George became the acting chief. Similarly, Marine Gen. Eric Smith has been nominated to be the next commandant, but is serving in an acting capacity now because he hasn't been confirmed.

Both can serve as "acting" chiefs, but can do nothing that would presume confirmation. As a result, they can't move into the main residences or offices, or issue formal planning guidance, which is traditional for a new leader. And officials have also warned that there are some authorities, including some budgeting powers, that don't shift to acting leaders.

"We need these leaders in place to ensure the readiness of our force," said Army Secretary Christine Wormuth, speaking at the ceremony. "And we need to end all of this uncertainty for our military families." She noted that officers and their families are in limbo, waiting to see if they will move or not to new bases, states and jobs.

In a recent comment, Tuberville said it is up to the Democrats to schedule votes on the nominations. "I am not stopping anyone from getting confirmed, and I am not stopping anyone from voting. Democrats could simply put these nominations up for a vote, but they clearly don't want to," he said.

Democrats have said that doing individual votes on each of the nominations would take months, and would eat up valuable time that the Senate needs to address other issues. In the past, senators have routinely voted en masse on large numbers of nominations and doing individual votes more rarely on ones that are less likely to be unanimous.

Smith addressed the issue

in a letter to the force on Thursday, laying out the need for the Corps to continue modernization efforts and broader programs to improve warfighting.

"Until the Senate confirms our 39th Commandant, this guidance will serve as our reference point," Smith said. "I cannot predict how long this process may take, but waiting is not an option for Marines, so we will move out as a team – just as we would in combat."

Tuberville has blocked efforts to have Senate votes on all nominations for senior military jobs because he disagrees with the travel pay policy. And congress is now out on summer vacation, which means there will be no action on the jobs for weeks.

Adm. Michael Gilday, chief

of naval operations, will step down on Monday. Adm. Lisa M. Franchetti, the current vice chief, has been nominated to take over.

Further complicating things, Air Force Gen. CQ Brown has been nominated to become the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, when Army Gen. Mark Milley leaves, as required by law, on Sept. 30. The current vice chairman, Adm. Christopher Grady, would serve as acting chairman.

Brown, whose term as Air Force chief goes for another year, will remain in that post. Gen. David Alvin has been nominated to be the next Air Force chief, if Brown moves to the chairman's job. □

## A Southern California judge has been arrested on suspicion of killing his wife in the couple's home

By Amy Taxin  
Associated Press

**SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)** — A Southern California judge has been arrested on suspicion of killing his wife in the couple's home, authorities said Friday.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Ferguson was arrested late Thursday after police received reports of a shooting at the home and found the judge's wife, Sheryl Ferguson, shot inside, said Anaheim police Sgt. Jon McClinton.

She was pronounced dead at the scene in the upscale neighborhood of Anaheim Hills. The 72-year-old judge was arrested and taken to jail. He is being held on \$1 million bail and is expected to appear in court in Santa Ana, California, on Monday. He has not yet been formally charged.

McClinton said one other person was at the home at the time but declined to say who the person was or whether they were among the callers who notified po-



Investigators remove firearms from a house in the 8500 block of E. Canyon Vista Dr. in Anaheim, Calif., on Friday, Aug. 4, 2023.

(Paul Bersebach/The Orange County Register via AP)

lice of the shooting. Telephone and email messages seeking comment were left for Ferguson's attorney, Paul S. Meyer.

Ferguson was elected as a judge in 2014 and took office in 2015. He handles criminal cases in a courthouse in the Orange County city of Fullerton.

He started his legal career in the Orange County dis-

trict attorney's office in 1983 and went on to work narcotics cases, for which he won various awards, according to the court.

During his time as a prosecutor, he was honored as an "attorney of the year" by the North Orange County Bar Association. He served as the organization's president from 2012 to 2014.

"This is a very tragic situa-

tion for all involved," Lorrie A. Walton, a current member of the association's board, said in an email.

In 2017, Ferguson was admonished by the Commission on Judicial Performance for posting a statement on Facebook about a judicial candidate "with knowing or reckless disregard for the truth of the statement" and for being

Facebook friends with attorneys appearing before him in court, according to a copy of the agency's findings.

Ferguson said on his Facebook page that he grew up in a military family and traveled throughout Asia as a child. He went on to attend college and law school in California. He and his wife were married in 1996.

He was previously married to another woman and they had a son. He and Sheryl Ferguson have another son together, said Juli Mitchell, the sister of his ex-wife.

On Friday, the Orange County Superior Court declined to provide additional information about the allegations.

"Although no case has been filed with our Court, when appropriate we will take all necessary steps to ensure full compliance with our legal and ethical obligations," Orange County Superior Court Presiding Judge Maria Hernandez said in a statement. □

## Texas separates migrant families, detaining fathers on trespassing charges in latest border move

By Acacia Coronado  
Associated Press

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)** — Texas state police officers separated migrant families along the border with Mexico by detaining fathers on trespassing charges and

turning over mothers and children to federal officials, the state Department of Public Safety said Thursday. The separations mark a shift from previous comments by Texas state police leaders who said families should

stay together and be referred to federal officers. Hearst Newspapers, which first reported the shift, said the families were separated last month in Eagle Pass, a border town of about 30,000 people west of San Antonio. Travis Considine, spokesman for the Department of Public Safety, said in a statement that children have never been separated from their mothers, but "there have been instances in which DPS has arrested male migrants on state charges who were with their family when the alleged crime occurred."

Gov. Greg Abbott's office referred questions to Department of Public Safety officials, who did not respond to additional requests for comment, including how many families have been separated, when

they began and where the detained men are being taken. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said Thursday that reports of separated families were troubling and should be investigated.

"Managing our border in a safe and humane way works best when we all work together to respect the dignity of every human being and keep our communities safe," the department said. Kristin Etter, an attorney with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, told Hearst Newspapers that she knew of 26 families who had been separated by Texas officials and called the move "nothing short of state-sponsored family separation." Texas RioGrande Legal Aid did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Texas' latest move to secure

the border without coordinating with the federal government drew widespread criticism from immigration advocates and some comparisons to Trump-era family separations, though they are markedly different. The Trump administration split thousands of children from all parents who were with them, assigned them to shelters, and struggled mightily to reunite them.

Earlier this year, Texas lawmakers attempted to pass immigration laws, including creation of a state border police force and increases in penalties for trespassing. Those attempts failed but the Republican-controlled Legislature allocated more than \$5 billion in border security funding, and gave federal immigration officers power to make arrests under Texas laws. □



A mother migrating from Honduras holds her 1-year-old child as she surrenders to U.S. Border Patrol agents after illegally crossing the border, near McAllen, Texas, Monday, June 25, 2018.

(AP Photo/David J. Phillip, File)

## Federal appeals court upholds Connecticut law that eliminated religious vaccination exemption

By Susan Haigh  
Associated Press

**(AP)** - A federal appeals court on Friday upheld a 2021 Connecticut law that eliminated the state's long-standing religious exemption from childhood immunization requirements for schools, colleges and day care facilities.

The decision comes about a year and a half after a lower court judge dismissed the lawsuit challenging the contentious law, which drew protests at the state Capitol.

"This decision is a full and resounding affirmation of the constitutionality and legality of Connecticut's vaccine requirements. Vaccines save lives this is a fact beyond dispute," Democratic Attorney General William Tong said in a statement. "The legislature acted responsibly and well within its authority to protect the health of Connecticut families and stop the spread of preventable disease."

The plaintiffs, We the Patriots USA Inc. and others, had argued that Connecticut violated religious freedom protections by re-



Opponents of a bill to repeal Connecticut's religious exemption for required school vaccinations march down Capitol Avenue before the State Senate voted on legislation on April 27, 2021, in Hartford, Conn.

(Mark Mirko/Hartford Courant via AP, File)

moving the exemption. The 2021 law, they said, demonstrates a hostility to religious believers and jeopardizes their rights to medical freedom and child rearing.

"We fully intend to seek review of this decision in the United States Supreme Court, to obtain equal justice for all children not only in Connecticut, but in ev-

ery state in the nation," Brian Festa, co-founder and vice president of We the Patriots USA Inc., said in a statement.

He said his group, which focuses on religious and medical freedom, parental rights and other matters, disagrees with the court's conclusion that removing the exemption does not

violate religious freedom under the First Amendment or the 14th Amendment's guarantee of equal protection under the law. In its decision, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit noted that "only one court state or federal, trial or appellate has ever found plausible a claim of a constitutional

defect in a state's school vaccination mandate on account of the absence or repeal of a religious exemption."

Connecticut law currently requires students to receive certain immunizations before enrolling in school, yet allows some medical exemptions. Students could seek religious exemptions as well prior to 2021, but lawmakers decided to end that after being concerned by an uptick in exemption requests coupled with a decline in vaccination rates in some schools.

The Connecticut General Assembly ultimately passed legislation that eliminated the exemption but grandfathered students in K-12 that had already received one. Festa called the court's decision to return part of the lawsuit to the lower court for further consideration "a victory" for special needs children in the state. One of the plaintiffs argued that Connecticut's law denies her son a free and appropriate education under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act by not allowing him a religious exemption. □

## Court blocks Mississippi ban on voting after some crimes, but GOP official will appeal ruling

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
Associated Press

**JACKSON, Miss. (AP)** — Mississippi is violating the U.S. Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment by permanently stripping voting rights from people convicted of some felonies, a federal appeals court panel ruled in a split decision Friday.

Two judges on the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel ordered the Mississippi secretary of state to stop enforcing a provision in the state constitution that disenfranchises people convicted of specific crimes, including murder, forgery and bigamy.

If the ruling stands, thou-

sands of people could regain voting rights, possibly in time for the Nov. 7 general election for governor

and other statewide offices. Mississippi Republican Attorney General Lynn Fitch expects to ask the full

appeals court to reconsider the panel's 2-1 ruling, her spokesperson, Debbee Hancock, said Friday.

The 5th Circuit is one of the most conservative appeals courts in the U.S., and in 2022 it declined to overturn Mississippi's felony disenfranchisement provisions a ruling that came in a separate lawsuit. In June, the U.S. Supreme Court said it would not consider that case, allowing the 2022 appeals court ruling to stand. The two lawsuits use different arguments.

The suit that the Supreme Court declined to hear was based on arguments about equal protection. Plaintiffs said that the Jim Crow-era



"I Voted" stickers are ready to be distributed to each person who filled out their ballot, Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022, at a Brandon, Miss., precinct.

(AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis, File)

authors of the Mississippi Constitution stripped voting rights for crimes they thought Black people were more likely to commit, including forgery, larceny and bigamy.

The lawsuit that the appeals court panel ruled on Friday is based on arguments that Mississippi is imposing cruel and unusual punishment with a lifetime ban on voting after some felony convictions.

"Mississippi stands as an outlier among its sister states, bucking a clear and consistent trend in our Nation against permanent disenfranchisement," wrote Judges Carolyn Dineen King and James L. Dennis. □

## Bark beetles are eating through Germany's Harz forest. Climate change is making matters worse

By Matthias Schrader and Dana Beltaji  
Associated Press

**CLAUSTHAL-ZELLERFELD, Germany (AP)**—Nestled in the spruce trees in the Harz mountains of northern Germany is a bark-eating pest not much bigger than a sesame seed.

Known as "book printers" for the lines they eat into the bark that fan out from a single spine resembling words on a page, these eight-toothed beetles have always been part of the local forest. Officials expect the bugs to typically kill a few spruces each summer as they find suitable trees to lay their eggs — they burrow into the tree's cambium, or growing layer, hampering it from getting the nutrients it needs to survive. But the tiny insects have been causing outsized devastation to the forests in recent years, with officials grappling to get the pests under control before the spruce population is entirely decimated. Two-thirds of the spruce in the region have already been destroyed, said Alexander Ahrenhold from the Lower Saxony state forestry office, and as human-caused climate change makes the region drier and the trees more favorable homes for the beetles' larvae, forest conservationists are preparing for the worst.

"Since 2018, we've had extremely dry summers and high temperatures, so almost all trees have had problems," said Ahrenhold. Spruce trees in particular need a lot of water so having less of it weakens their defenses, and they're not able to produce their natural tree resin repellent, he said.

As the planet warms, longer droughts are becoming more common around the world, with hotter temperatures also drying up moisture in soil and plants. And even though the beetles tend to target weakened trees, in dry years the population can reproduce so much "that the beetles were even able to



A steam train travels through the Harz mountains where the trees are destroyed by the bark beetle and drought, near Schierke, Germany, Wednesday, July 26, 2023.

(AP Photo/Matthias Schrader)

attack healthy spruce in large numbers," he said. "In some regions there are now no more spruces." Experts say there's no easy solution, but forest managers work to remove trees that might be susceptible to beetles as early as possible and use pesticides where they're needed.

Michael Müller, the Chair of Forest Protection at the Technical University in Dresden, said there are "very strict requirements for the use of pesticides" which can be very effective in getting rid of the bugs, although the chemicals are sometimes frowned upon for their potentially harmful

environmental side effects. "It's of course preferable to take the raw wood out of the forest and send it for recycling or to store it in non-endangered areas outside the forest," he said, but noted that requires a separate logistical operation. On trees that are still standing, he said, it's not re-



Ranger Marion Petrik holds spruce bark beetles during a bark beetle monitoring at the Lower-Saxony state forests in a forest of the Harz mountains near Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Germany, Thursday, July 27, 2023.

(AP Photo/Matthias Schrader)

ally possible to remove the beetles.

Müller added that forest conservation measures can "sometimes take decades from being implemented to taking effect" and other factors, like storms and drought, and other species, such as game and mice that can also hamper plant growth, are potentially more damaging to the forest in the long run than the bark beetle.

But he said that conservation efforts are limited by external factors, like the changing climate. "After all, we can't irrigate the forests," he said.

In the longer term, mixing other tree species into the forest could be a solution, Ahrenhold said. "It makes sense to plant other conifers that can cope better with these conditions, especially on south-facing slopes and on very dry soil," he said.

Having too many spruce trees in the Harz is a result of centuries of planting big concentrations of the tree, according to Richard Hözl, an environmental historian at the Five Continents Museum in Munich.

"Clausthal-Zellerfeld is one prime example of a mining area in the Harz where they very early on tried to establish artificial reproduction for spruce to have it for mining construction works," said Hözl.

Officials realized by the 19th century that planting just one type of tree over and over again wasn't a good idea ecologically, but "the economy countered that realization because spruce was such an attractive species," he said. Spruce was the preferred tree for industrial forestry, paper mills and pulp.

Still, without the warmer and drier weather from climate change, the bark beetles wouldn't be flourishing in all that spruce.

"There is a long, long prehistory, but there's also the (climatic) change now," said Hözl. "We can't really blame our forefathers for that." □

## US and UN should impose more sanctions on Sudanese leaders for alleged atrocities, rights group says

By Jack Jeffery  
Associated Press

**CAIRO (AP)** — A leading human rights group called Friday on the United States and the United Nations to impose further sanctions on those in Sudan "responsible for the atrocities" in the troubled Darfur region, where evidence of scorched-earth attacks is mounting.

The northeast African country plunged into chaos in April when months-long tensions between the military, led by Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, exploded into open fighting in the capital of Khartoum, and elsewhere. In Darfur, the scene of genocidal war in the early 2000s, the conflict has morphed into ethnic violence, with the RSF and allied Arab militias targeting African communities in the western region, U.N. officials say.

In a press release, Human Rights Watch said Washington should impose tar-



This is a locator map for Sudan with its capital, Khartoum.

(AP Photo)

geted sanctions to "ensure that the U.N. Security Council finally acts to protect civilians and to hold those responsible for the atrocities to account." The U.S. is set to take over the presidency of the U.N. Security Council later this month.

The New York-based watchdog group said at least seven villages and

towns have been almost completely burned to the ground or destroyed in West Darfur alone, according to satellite footage and testimonies analyzed by the group. These include Habilla Kanari, Mejmere, Misterei, Molle, Murnei, Gokor, and Sirba. "The world should not stand by as town after town in

West Darfur is burned to the ground, sending tens of thousands of civilians fleeing for their lives," said Tirana Hassan, executive director at HRW. In June, the U.S. imposed sanctions against four key companies either linked to or owned by the warring factions. The White House also placed visa restric-

tions on army and RSF officials, and leaders from the former government led by ousted President Omar al-Bashir. It did not specify which individuals were affected. Al-Bashir, who ruled Sudan for more than 30 years, is wanted by the International Criminal Court on charges of war crimes and genocide linked to the Darfur conflict.

Later Friday, the U.S., Britain and Norway called in a joint statement for an end to the bloodshed in Darfur. The three countries condemned the ongoing violence, "especially reports of killings based on ethnicity and widespread sexual violence by the Rapid Support Forces" and allied militias. Since the latest fighting erupted in mid-April, there have been at least nine temporary cease-fire agreements between the military and the RSF, most of which were brokered by Washington and Riyadh during cross party talks in the Saudi coastal city of Jeddah. However, all the truces foundered. □

## Haitians express skepticism over Kenya's offer to UN to send police to confront gangs

By Evens Sanon and Megan Janetsky  
Associated Press  
**PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI (AP)**

— Haitians are expressing skepticism over an offer by Kenya to lead an international police force aimed at combatting the gang violence that has wracked the Caribbean nation.

They say the sexual abuse and a devastating cholera outbreak that have accompanied foreign forces in past decades don't inspire much trust. But Haitians also say uncontrolled bloodshed in their country leaves them with few other options.

Florence Casimir, an elementary school teacher, said that while past international interventions have damaged Haiti, their abuses don't compare to the

brutality of gangs, which kidnap her students and force parents to pay hefty ransoms.

After Prime Minister Ariel Henry urged the world

in October to deploy an armed force to fight the gangs, the United Nations has struggled to convince a nation to lead efforts to restore the order in the

Caribbean country, in part due to past controversy over peacekeeping missions. There's been little appetite for a U.S.- or U.N.-led force, and the United States unsuccessfully tried to persuade Canada to lead a force.

As the search continued, gang warfare continued to worsen, leading to a wave of hundreds of kidnappings and the emergence of vigilante forces taking justice into their own hands. Today, armed groups control an estimated 80% of Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince.

Kenya has offered to send 1,000 police officers to help train and assist an overwhelmed Haitian police force, saying it hopes to "restore normalcy in the country."

This week, the United States



Police clash with a man during a protest by supporters of Kenya's opposition leader Raila Odinga over the high cost of living and alleged stolen presidential vote, in Nairobi, on March 20, 2023.

(AP Photo/Brian Inganga, File)

said it will put forward a resolution to the U.N. Security Council to authorize the force.

Kenya's proposal has sparked debate among Haitians, many of whom distrust international interventions after the failures and abuses of U.N. peacekeeping missions over the decades.

Haitians saw rounds of foreign interventions throughout the 1900s, often a response by nations like the U.S. to political instability in Haiti. In some cases, such missions helped ease chaos and in the 1990s led to the creation of the Haitian National Police.

But successes are often overshadowed by scars that Haitians carry with them from abuses that came with those missions. □

## Minister Tjon (Justice) grants new electric bikes for the Tourism Oriented Police Continuing the efforts for increased security within Aruba's city center

(Oranjestad)—Exactly one week ago, on a sunny Saturday morning, the minister of Justice and Social Relations, Mr. Rocco Tjon, delivered four electric bicycles to the Tourism Oriented Police (TOP) team, as part of the ongoing project to increase security within the city center of Oranjestad.

A few months back, the ministry of justice visited all police stations on the island, where officers were able to share some of their concerns, ideas, and their need for resources to execute their job more effectively and provide better service to the Aruban community. The need for electric bicycles was one of the few points that were brought forward, and as



they have stated in the past, the budget offers enough space for acquir-

ing new material for the Police Corps of Aruba. The bicycles will be used by

the TOP team to elevate security within the city center of Oranjestad. It has been

evident that tourism on the island continues to flourish; more cruise ships are adding Aruba on their itinerary, which means that there are a lot of tourists who roam the city center. It is for this reason that these bicycles are extremely important.

This element is an extension of the security project, which includes the installation of security cameras in the city center, hotel areas and San Nicolas. With the addition of these electric bicycles, police officers are able to be more mobile and present in the city center, guaranteeing the security of not only our visitors but also the security of our community and local businesses within the city center. □

## Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

**SAN NICOLAS**— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

### Flow of history

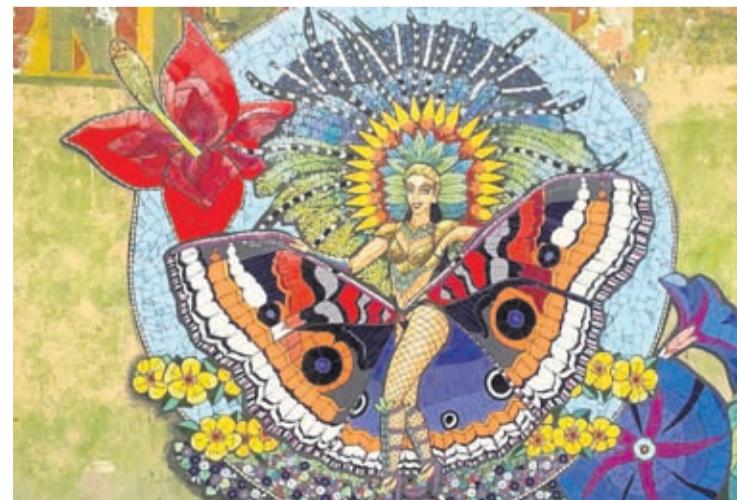
If you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking



distance from one another. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barber-

shop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment.



Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

### The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled

with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

### Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □

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The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood

Auntie Anne's Pretzels



## Get it ALL done at Do It Center and Super Do It Center & Groceries



Noord – Sometimes all we need is one place where we can do all our shopping at once. Well, Do it center and Super Do it Center Groceries has it all. This is the largest, local owned Do it Center in the Caribbean and best of all a 100% locally owned family business.

### How it all began

It was 1938 when Mr. Eric Ponson started his journey at General Store. Ponson did not hesitate and decided to buy General Store. Buying a store and thus going from employee to owner of a business with a debt of 11.000 guilders was not an easy task.

As the saying goes: "Behind every successful man, is a strong

woman". In the case of Ponson, this was no different. As General Store progressed and slowly became successful, Mrs. Irene Ponson, came in to assist her husband. Irene Ponson is a visionary, she knew exactly where and how to invest and within a short amount of time in 1970, General Store moved to a better location at the Steenweg. This allowed for a lot more merchandize, products and employees. Supply and demand was as such, that General Store became the number 1 electrical business. Business kept going so well that the location at the Steenweg became too small and was moved later to Dakota Shopping Paradise and later to Pedro Gallego Straat. With this move, an expansion was decided upon and an electronics

store in Savaneta was opened. General Store still being very successful was ready for more growth.

Ricky, Kenneth, Corine and Frans are the fruits of this marriage. Kenneth and Frans however, decided to further develop their father's legacy and continued with their mother's dream to expand the business. An expansion not in square feet only, but in merchandize as well. A great opportunity presented itself when the Ponson family was able to buy a piece of property across from the airport. In 2007 the Ponson family moved into their brand new and huge building

After a successful opening and expansion, Kenneth and Frans who inherited their mothers vision, decided that General Store was ready for yet another expansion. With the support of Mr. Tom Barfell and management of Do it Best in the States, the construction of Do it Center commenced.

Fast forward to today. A Do it Center in Aruba, with more than 50.000 top of the line items for interior as well exterior use, building materials, STO products and a top of the line grocery store. Perseverance, responsibility, vision and the courage to invest have made Ponson's General Store as successful as it is today.

### Super Do It Center Shaba & Groceries

Located in Shaba, Noord. This is the last sibling of the Do It Center family. Here you will be able to find anything you are looking for. The building is divided into several departments from home to hardware to groceries. Everything under one roof.

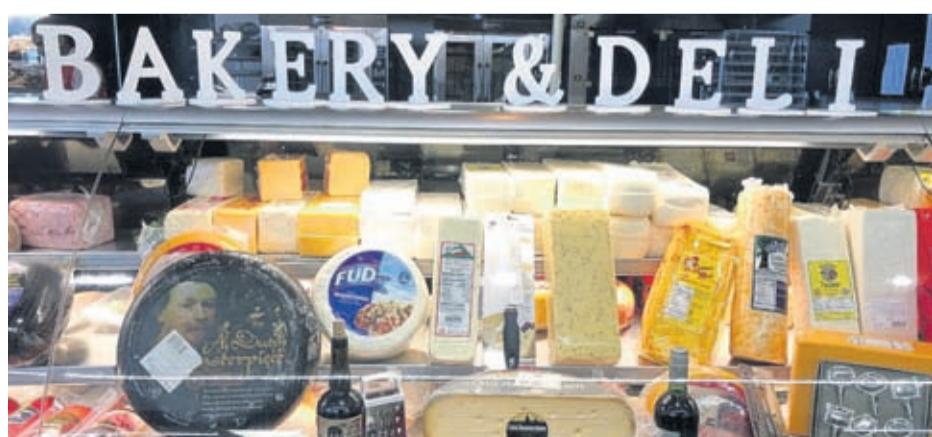
Groceries? Visit the fully stocked supermarket with fresh fruits and vegetables and high class meat selections. Highly known products and brands are here for you to grab. Every week Do It Center Groceries offers its weekly special on selected items. Weekly specials are very popular and a perfect chance for you to buy your favorite products at a reduced price.

### Need a home makeover?

Do not skip the furniture department "Leenbakker". Here, you will find a divine collection of European furniture, worldwide known for their modern and stylish features for your bedroom, bathroom, living room or kitchen. For your garden they have a wide selection of durable furniture specially made for our tropical climate. Take a walk around and find some treasures. Find the perfect accessory for your house, fitted for your personality and style. Modern, elegant, retro industrial, whatever your style is you will definitely find something for your personal taste.

Do it Center Shaba is open from Monday to Saturday from 8AM to 8PM and on Sunday's from 9AM to 6PM.

For more information go to [www.doit.aw](http://www.doit.aw).



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Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez Café

The Brownstone Ribs &amp; Seafood

Auntie Anne's Pretzels

## Your weekend weather forecast



(Oranjestad)—The Meteorological Department of Aruba is the island's only reliable source for meteorological, seismological and climatological data for Aruba, as well as the official governmental entity to issue severe weather bulletins for Aruba. The organization provides daily weather forecasts to the Aruban public. The forecast for this weekend is as follows:

**This forecast is valid until  
Saturday august 5th, 2023,  
18:00 hours.**

Weather forecast for the upcoming 3 days: Partly cloudy with a brief shower; winds will be from east directions and moderate to fresh, strong to possibly near gale force in gusts; max/min temperatures (centigrades) will be 34/28.□

Weather	
This evening:	Partly cloudy and generally dry during the overnight
Early morning and tomorrow:	Partly cloudy with a passing to brief shower.
Maximum temperature:	34 centigrades
Minimum temperature:	28 centigrades
Heat index during and around the afternoon hours:	35 to 40 degrees Celsius
UV index:	12
Sunset:	7:05 pm
Sunrise:	6:26 am.
Wind:	From generally east directions and moderate to fresh; force 4 to 5 (20 to 39 km/hr, 11 to 21 knots). During the day strong to near gale force in gusts; force 6 to 7 (40 to 61 km/hr, 22 to 33 knots).
Synopsis for the next 24 hours:	a tropical wave is moving in the eastern Caribbean westward. This will cause a slight increase in the moisture levels and now and then more cloudiness to drift over the region. This can induce mainly during the overnight and early morning a passing to brief shower.

Marine conditions/ state of the sea	
On the protected sites:	Calm; around 1 foot
On the south sections:	Moderate at 2 to 3 feet
On the east to northwest coastlines:	Generally moderate at 3 to 5, locally 6 feet
Warnings/ advisories:	None
Special features:	None
Tropical weather outlook:	None
Rainfall potential for the next 24 hours:	1 mm; this can differ locally




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Observed temperature (centigrade) and rainfall (mm) in the last 24 hours (8 am to 8 am)	
Airport:	max 33 / min 28 / 0.0 mm
Westpunt:	max 33 / min 28 / 0.0 mm
Sta. Rosa:	max 34 / min 28 / 0.0 mm

## Come to the farmers Market at Ostrich Farm!

**Every first Sunday of the month the Ostrich Farm organizes and facilitates the largest farmers market on the island. Everything sold during the farmers market are locally crafted, produced and grown. Locally artisans and farmers gather at the farmers market to showcase proudly their products.**

You can find the best artisan bread & pastries from T2 Pan, hot sauces from Nonna, jams, cooking sauces, fresh egg and honey that comes from small beekeepers, vegetarian snacks from locally soured beans call Dubaru. Then you have the very talented local artisans that share their unique and one-of-a-kind art such as driftwood paintings, high quality jewelry, baby clothing, knitting products, ceramic mugs/cups and plates, Calabash art, organic soap and cosmetic from Bath & Body and Eco living and so much more!

The Farmer's market is held under a large, covered area so you can shop comfortably in the shade. The restaurant in the premises serves delicious local lunches and fresh fish when available. Ice cold local beer, smoothies, fresh fruit shakes and not to be missed serves the best shaved ice on the island! And the Ostrich tours is of course offered as well.

For everybody young and old here is something to do, shop, relax and enjoy a great family outing and most of all come and support the local artisans and farmers every first Sunday of the month from 10:00 to 14:00, Matividiri 57, follow our facebookpage or Instagram @arubaostrichfarm and be notified for each upcoming farmers market. □



## Aruban snacks and where to find them



**ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.**

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based

on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find pastechis and krokets at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"?

Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flea markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island.



However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
2. Along the main road next to the airport field.
3. At the California Light House.
4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them! □

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com



# Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost: Aruban fruits and vegetables

**Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete.** Whether you see the mangoes hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

## Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year-round.

## Kenepa



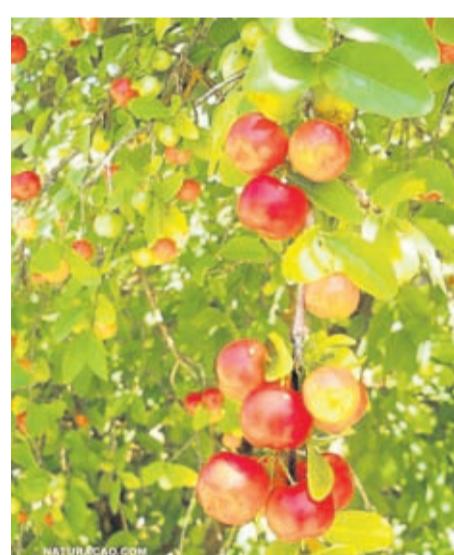
Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

## Druif



There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

## Shimarucu



Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

## Tamarind



A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system. Start the day with a 'batida' (smoothie) enriched with a local veggie touch or select your restaurant that offers local vegetable dishes to get the real pure taste of it.

## Comcomber chiquito



This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Comcomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vi-

amin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year-round.

## Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

## Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

## Pompuna



In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruban restaurants is Sopa Di Pompuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups. □

**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 40 Give a speech  
1 Enjoy the library 41 Hamper  
5 Blinds 42 External piece  
9 TV's item  
"Uncle Miltie"  
10 Car quartet  
12 Be of use  
13 Early Mexican  
14 Reserved money  
16 Can. neighbor  
17 "— we there yet?"  
18 Trial  
20 Reduce  
22 "Clumsy me!"  
23 Routine  
25 Asian language  
28 Charge criminally  
32 London theater area  
34 "— TURN"  
35 Consume  
36 Ring carrier  
38 Dodge

**Yesterday's answer**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9					10				11
12					13				
14				15		16			
17			18			19			
20		21			22				
25	26	27		28		29	30	31	
32			33		34				
35			36		37				
38		39		40					
41			42						
	43			44					

B-5

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

K E B S T J I F O I U E Y U T Q W —

U T Q T Z F I I U T Q E Z O E F .

W F A G G W X J J I L — L A S O T L U

T U T J W

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HISTORY IS A SET OF LIES THAT EVERYONE HAS AGREED UPON.  
NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

**Taiwanese microchip company agrees to more oversight of its Arizona plant construction**

Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — A Taiwanese microchip manufacturer building its first U.S. plant in Arizona has agreed to more scrutiny from the state when it comes to the safety of construction workers, Gov. Katie Hobbs said Friday.

At a news conference held against the backdrop of ongoing construction at a site in north Phoenix, Hobbs announced that the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. facility and the state have signed a voluntary protection program.

"Under this agreement, TSMC will adhere to requirements higher than those at the federal level," the Democratic governor said. "These additional safety measures include greater transparency for workers, closer oversight from the Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health and increased training for foremen and all hands."

The governor said con-



President Joe Biden tours the building site for a new computer chip plant for Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022, in Phoenix

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, File)

struction safety standards should match the quality of the highly publicized project that has been the source of much pride.

Democratic President Joe Biden visited the site in December, praising it as a demonstration of how his policies are fostering job growth. Biden has staked his legacy in large part on major investments in technology and infrastructure that were approved by

Congress along bipartisan lines. The plant's construction was first announced in 2020 during Donald Trump's presidency. At the time, TSMC announced it's investing a total of \$40 billion over eight years in Arizona and would construct a second plant. Then-Republican Gov. Doug Ducey said the factory would create more than 1,600 new high-tech jobs in the state. □

**A cyberattack has disrupted hospitals and health care in several states**

By Pat Eaton-Robb

Associated Press

MANCHESTER, Conn. (AP)

— Hospitals and clinics in several states on Friday began the time-consuming process of recovering from a cyberattack that disrupted their computer systems, forcing some emergency rooms to shut down and ambulances to be diverted

ed. Many primary care services at facilities run by Prospect Medical Holdings remained closed on Friday as security experts worked to determine the extent of the problem and resolve it. John Riggi, the American Hospital Association's national advisory for cybersecurity and risk, said the recovery process can often take weeks, with hospitals in the meantime reverting to paper systems and humans to do things such as monitor equipment and run records between departments.

"These are threat-to-life crimes, which risk not only the safety of the patients within the hospital, but also risk the safety of the entire community that depends on the availability of that emergency department to be there," Riggi said.

The latest "data security incident" began Thursday at facilities operated by Prospect, which is based in California and has hospitals and clinics there and in Texas, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania. □

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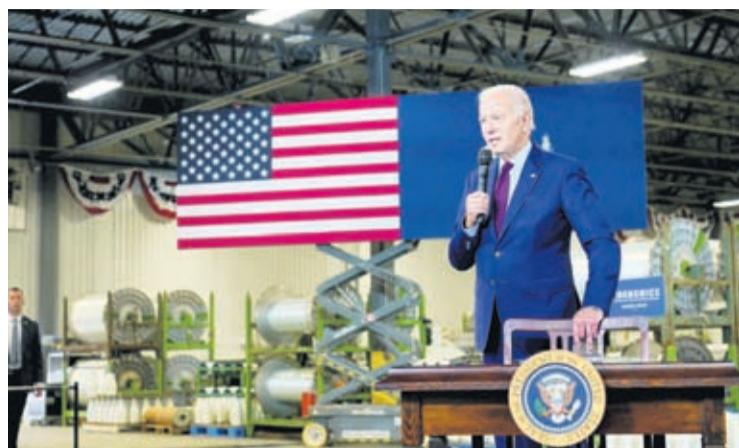
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## Joe Biden's 'Buy America' policy on infrastructure projects leads to factory jobs in Wisconsin



President Joe Biden speaks at Auburn Manufacturing Inc., in Auburn, Maine, Friday, July 28, 2023, before he signs an executive order to encourage companies to manufacture new inventions in the United States.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

**By Josh Boak  
Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP) —** Efforts by the Biden administration have been helping create new factory jobs as part of a push to bring high-speed internet to the whole country -- jobs that coincidentally help to back up President Joe Biden's messaging for the 2024 elections.

Vice President Kamala Harris announced on Thursday that up to 200 new manufacturing jobs would be coming to the swing state of Wisconsin. The workers at the Sanmina factory in Kenosha County are to make parts for Nokia that help to connect customers to broadband internet.

Nokia's choice to move production to the U.S.

came after an extended engagement with the Commerce Department over how to deliver on the "Buy America" rules in the government's \$42.5 billion investment to provide universal internet services.

"Whereas in the past, many of those jobs would have been created overseas, President Biden and I required that the materials and products used in these projects, from steel to electronics to fiber optic cable, must be made in America, by workers in America," Harris said in her speech at the factory.

The remarks were part of a broader effort by the administration to get voters to link job gains to specific actions taken by Biden, one of the foundations of

his reelection effort amid continued public gloom about the economy because of the burst of high inflation that began during his presidency. Much of the effort to deliver on those promises has occurred out of the public view, but Nokia and government officials agreed to discuss how this particular project came together.

"It was a labor of some length and passion," said Brian Hendricks, vice president of policy and public affairs for Nokia Americas. "We spent almost a year working with the administration. They had to understand what the supply chain for broadband electronics actually is, understand how network deployments are done, and what would be feasible." But there was also an "urgency" for Nokia's customers to know they could buy parts that were compliant with the

"Buy America" provisions, since the 2021 infrastructure law established preferences for domestically-made supplies. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, who appeared with Harris in Wisconsin, said the president was clear that she "wasn't to be giving Buy America waivers easily." □

**TODAY** **BONDIA**

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Downtown



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2 Bed Garden view \$10,000  
3 Bed Ocean view \$20,500

#### Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

#### PLATINUM SEASON

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1 Bed Ocean front \$17,000  
1 Bed Ocean View \$14,500

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Red Cross	582 2219

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## Movie weapons supervisor waives right to preliminary hearing in fatal shooting by Alec Baldwin

By Morgan Lee  
Associated Press

**SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)** — The woman who was overseeing the use of weapons on the movie set where Alec Baldwin fatally shot a cinematographer agreed Friday to forgo a preliminary hearing that would have provided court testimony from dozens of people, including eyewitnesses to the shooting.

Arizona-based armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, in a court filing, waived her right to a courtroom review of evidence on charges of involuntary manslaughter in the 2021 shooting of Halyna Hutchins on the set of the Western movie "Rust." Gutierrez-Reed also waived her right to a review of charges by a grand jury.

Defense attorney Jason Bowles has described Hutchins' death on Oct. 21, 2021, as a tragic accident and says that Gutierrez-Reed committed no crime. Gutierrez-Reed has not entered a plea to charges of involuntary manslaughter and evidence-tampering.



This aerial photo shows the Bonanza Creek Ranch in Santa Fe, N.M., on Oct. 23, 2021, used for the film "Rust."

If convicted, she faces up to three years in prison.

"Rust" safety coordinator and assistant director David Halls has pleaded no contest to a charge of unsafe handling of a firearm and received a suspended sentence of six months' probation.

In April, prosecutors

dropped charges against Baldwin, who was pointing a gun at Hutchins when it went off, killing her and injuring director Joel Souza. That left Gutierrez-Reed as the sole remaining defendant. Baldwin has said the gun fired accidentally after he followed instructions to

intentionally modified. Authorities have not fully explained how live ammunition found its way onto the film set and into the .45-caliber revolver.

Authorities say Gutierrez-Reed loaded the gun prior to a lunch break with what should have been inert dummy ammunition. Prosecutors say the armorer was negligent amid a breakdown of safety protocols as cast and crew began rehearsing with the weapon containing a live round in the early afternoon.

Prosecutors have recently filed the evidence-tampering charge on allegations that Gutierrez-Reed handed off a small bag of narcotics to a colleague amid police interviews on the day of the shooting. Bowles says prosecutors are engaged in "character assassination."

The filming of "Rust" resumed in April in Montana under an agreement with the cinematographer's husband, Matthew Hutchins, that makes him an executive producer. □

## Star soprano Anna Netrebko sues Met Opera over its decision to cut ties over Russia-Ukraine war

By Ronald Blum  
Associated Press

**(AP)** - Soprano Anna Netrebko, once among the Metropolitan Opera's biggest box office draws, sued

the company and general manager Peter Gelb on Friday, alleging defamation, breach of contract and other violations related to the institution's decision to

drop her following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, asks for at least \$360,000 in damages for lost performance and rehearsal fees. Netrebko claims the Met caused "severe mental anguish and emotional distress" that included "depression, humiliation, embarrassment, stress and anxiety, and emotional pain and suffering."

The Met dropped the Russian soprano from future engagements shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. Gelb had demanded she repudiate Russia President Vladimir Putin.

"Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Met and Peter Gelb have used Anna

Netrebko as a scapegoat in their campaign to distance themselves from Russia and to support Ukraine," the management of the 51-year-old soprano said in a statement.

The Met said in a statement: "Ms. Netrebko's lawsuit has no merit."

The American Guild of Musical Artists filed a grievance on Netrebko's behalf and arbitrator Howard C. Edelman ruled in February that the Met violated the union's collective bargaining agreement when it canceled deals with Netrebko to appear in Verdi's "Don Carlo" and "La Forza del Destino" and Giordano's "Andrea Chénier." He awarded her compensation for the lost performances, which the union

calculated at \$209,103.48. Netrebko, who made her Met debut in 2002, was due to receive the Met's top fee of \$17,000 per performance, the suit said.

Edelman's decision said Netrebko voluntarily withdrew from performances of Wagner's "Lohengrin" and Puccini's "Turandot" and was not owed for those. The lawsuit alleges breach of additional agreements for 40 performances of Puccini's "Tosca" and Tchaikovsky's "Pique Dame (The Queen of Spades)" during the 2024-25 season and Puccini's "Manon Lescaut" and Verdi's "Macbeth" in 2025-26. Going beyond the scope of the arbitration, the suit claims Netrebko was discriminated against because of national origin. □



Russian soprano Anna Netrebko bows to the audience at the end of La Scala opera house's gala season opener, Giacomo Puccini's opera "Tosca" at the Milan La Scala theater, Italy, on Dec. 7, 2019.

(AP Photo/Luca Bruno, File)

## Saints' Kamara suspended for 3 games, apologizes for role in 2022 fight, thanks Goodell for meeting

By Brett Martel

METAIRIE, La. (AP) — Saints star running back Alvin Kamara and Colts defensive back Chris Lammons each have been suspended for three regular-season games by the NFL because of their involvement in a February 2022 fight in Las Vegas.

The NFL released its decision on Friday, two days after Kamara was excused from training camp to meet with Commissioner Roger Goodell.

Kamara and Lammons pleaded no contest to misdemeanor charges last month in a deal with prosecutors in Las Vegas that avoided trial and potential jail time.

Kamara has been one of New Orleans' most productive players as a rusher and receiver since being named offensive rookie of the year for the 2017 season.

Speaking after practice Friday, but before the suspension had been announced, Kamara was contrite and expressed a desire to make wiser decisions going forward.

"I never want to be involved in something where someone gets hurt or severely injured or anything,



New Orleans Saints running back Alvin Kamara (41) runs through drills at the NFL team's football training camp in Metairie, La., Friday, Aug. 4, 2023.

(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

Poor judgment on my end, definitely a bad decision," Kamara said. "I was completely wrong, embarrassed the Saints, embarrassed my family, my mother. Embarrassed myself.

"I'd be lying if I said it wasn't tough," Kamara continued. "I've lost a lot throughout this ordeal. I'm definitely not looking for any pity and not looking for somebody to give me a pat on the back and say,

'It's OK.' I know what I did. ... And I definitely take responsibility.

That's part of being a man and growing. From here, I just got to make the right decisions and make the right choices."

Noting that he was out at 5 a.m. when the fight occurred on the eve of that season's Pro Bowl, Kamara said he'd begun making a series of unwise choices well before the altercation and would have been

better served by following former NFL coach Tony Dungy's advice to players that they not to stay out past midnight.

Kamara thanked Goodell for meeting with him on Thursday and said his visit went well.

"I think we got accomplished what we needed to get accomplished," he said. "Happy I got a chance to do that."

But Kamara declined to go into detail about what he

discussed with the commissioner. Goodell has not commented on the meeting and NFL communications staff also have declined to comment.

Kamara played throughout the 2022 season while the NFL waited for a resolution to his and Lammons' court case.

The two players were accused, along with two other defendants, of beating Darnell Greene Jr., of Houston, unconscious following an altercation that spilled out of an elevator and into a hallway.

Kamara and Lammons pleaded no contest on July 11 to misdemeanors and agreed to each pay just more than \$100,000 toward Greene's medical costs.

The plea agreements came in conjunction with a settlement of a civil case Greene filed.

Financial terms of that deal remain undisclosed.

Under the NFL's player conduct policy, the league office may issue suspensions for conduct that is "illegal, violent, dangerous, or irresponsible puts innocent victims at risk, damages the reputation of others in the game, and undercuts public respect and support for the NFL." □

## Top-seeded Jessica Pegula beats Elina Svitolina in 3 sets to reach the DC Open quarterfinals

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top-seeded Jessica Pegula reached the DC Open semifinals by coming back to edge Elina Svitolina 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 across more than two hours on Friday.

Pegula saved six break points in the third set — five at 3-2, and the last while serving out the victory in the final game.

Svitolina, who returned to the tour in April after having a baby in October, was coming off a semifinal run last month at Wimbledon, where she eliminated No. 1 Iga Swiatek.

Pegula is a 29-year-old American who won the

hard-court tournament in the nation's capital in 2019 for one of her two WTA singles titles and claimed the doubles trophy in Washington last year. She is a six-time Grand Slam quarterfinalist and will face No. 4 seed Maria Sakkari or No. 7 seed Madison Keys in the semifinals.

Sakkari advanced to the quarterfinals by winning her rain-postponed fourth-round match against 2021 U.S. Open runner-up Leylah Fernandez 7-5, 6-2 earlier Friday.

The other women's quarterfinals: Coco Gauff vs. Belinda Bencic, and defending champion Liud-

mila Samsonova vs. Marta Kostyuk.

Because of rain that washed out several matches Thursday, some men needed to play twice on Friday. That group will include the winner of the fourth-round matchup between three-time major champion Andy Murray and top-seeded Taylor Fritz. Also scheduled to play in the fourth round on Friday, in the hopes of advancing to a quarterfinal later in the day, were Americans Frances Tiafoe against Jungheng Shang and Chris Eubanks against Jordan Thompson. □



Jessica Pegula hits a forehand to Peyton Stearns at the DC Open tennis tournament Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023, in Washington.

(Minh Connors/The Washington Post via AP)

# Weekly SPECIALS



<b>Sla-vinken</b>	<b>TJ Farms Select Cut Corn 14oz</b>	<b>Brisket/Pecho</b>	<b>Plums</b>
WAS \$8.85 \$5.71 Per KG	WAS \$3.99 \$2.85 Each	WAS \$18.57 \$15.42 Per KG	WAS \$8.54 \$4.28 Per KG

<b>Cherries Red Clamshell 3lb</b>	<b>BBQ/Grill Pork Sate</b>	<b>Potatoes Russet 5lb</b>	<b>Strawberries Fresh 1lb</b>	<b>Peppers Red</b>
WAS \$12.28 \$9.69 Per Each	WAS \$9.71 \$7.42 Per KG	WAS \$5.25 \$4.85 Per Bag	WAS \$7.97 \$7.40 Per Each	WAS \$7.34 \$6.77 Per KG

<b>DIARY/FROZEN</b>	<b>HBC/GM</b>	<b>DELI/BAKERY</b>
Kerrygold Garlic and Herb Butter 3.5oz WAS \$3.97 \$2.85 Each	Fa Deospray-Mystic Moments 150ml WAS \$2.30 \$1.71 Each	Boterham Worst WAS \$1.59 \$1.31 100 GR
SV Chocolate Ice Cream Reduced Fat 128oz WAS \$9.71 \$7.42 Each	Gwoon Toilet Papier 3 Loops Katoen 4st WAS \$2.45 \$2.28 Each	Mini Beenham WAS \$1.65 \$1.37 100 GR

<b>EE Rice White Long Grain 5lb</b>	<b>Melkan Volle Melk Gecondenseerd 397gr</b>	<b>EE Apple Juice 64oz</b>	<b>Starkist Chunk Light Tuna Vegetable Oil can 5oz</b>	<b>Calve Mayonaise 450ml assorted</b>
WAS \$6.62 \$5.71 Each	WAS \$2.87 \$2.28 Each	WAS \$3.77 \$2.85 Each	WAS \$1.82 \$1.71 Each	WAS \$3.82 \$1.71 Each

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